

## IMPLEMENTATION OF ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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### ABSTRACT

*Economic cooperation between countries in the ASEAN region aims to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development. In the dynamics of its development, ASEAN economic cooperation is directed at the formation of an ASEAN Economic Community, whose implementation is relatively faster than cooperation in the fields of politics, security and socio-culture. However, during the current Covid-19 pandemic, the economy in the world and especially in Southeast Asia has been disturbed, by seeing this condition, the author wants to express ideas and ideas regarding how the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community during the Covid-19 pandemic.*

**Keywords:** Covid-19, ASEAN economic community, cooperation

### INTRODUCTION

In line with the development of the global constellation, ASEAN is also experiencing an unprecedented rapid development. At the beginning of its establishment, ASEAN devoted most of its attention to building confidence building measures, goodwill, and developing the habit of collaborating openly and dynamically among its members. Towards its 42nd year, ASEAN has reached a level of cohesiveness and mutual trust among its members and has begun to touch on cooperation in areas that were previously considered sensitive. ASEAN's rapid development is inseparable from environmental influences both within and outside the region which have helped shape and enrich patterns of cooperation among ASEAN member countries (Jones, D. M. 2008).

The experience of the Southeast Asia region during the financial and economic crisis in 1997-1998 triggered ASEAN awareness of the importance of increasing and strengthening intra-regional cooperation. The importance of increasing and strengthening cooperation is also triggered by the emergence of global issues and events such as the problem of terrorism, the environment, the increasing situation of competition and tensions between major countries in the region, the issue of nuclear weapons and so on (Tomotaka, S.2008).

The development of ASEAN entered a new chapter with the adoption of the ASEAN Vision 2020 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1997 which envisions ASEAN as a community of Southeast Asian countries that is open, peaceful, stable and prosperous, caring for each other, tied together in a dynamic partnership in 2020. Furthermore, ASEAN also adopted the Bali Concord II at the 9th ASEAN Summit in Bali in 2003 which approved the establishment of the ASEAN Community (Collins, A.2007).

The establishment of the ASEAN Community is part of ASEAN's efforts to further strengthen ASEAN integration. In addition, it is also an evolutive effort for ASEAN to adjust its perspective so that it can be more open in discussing domestic problems that have an impact on the region without abandoning ASEAN's main principles, namely mutual respect, not interfering in domestic affairs (non-interference), consensus, dialogue and consultation. The ASEAN Community consists of 3 (three) pillars, namely the ASEAN Security Community (ASC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) which bind and strengthen each other to achieve common goals to ensure sustainable peace, stability, and shared prosperity in the Southeast Asian region. The three supporting pillars of the ASEAN Community become a new paradigm that will move ASEAN cooperation towards a new, more binding community and identity (.

As Chair of ASEAN at that time, Indonesia was encouraged to propose the concept of an ASEAN Security Community (Andrea, 2006). Indonesia hopes that the ASC can be formed in line with the formation of the AEC that was proposed by Singapore at the 8th ASEAN Summit in 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The two concepts are expected to be realized in 2020 in order to create an ASEAN Community. The 10th ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Laos in November 2004 agreed on a Program of Action (PoA) for the pillar of security and socio-cultural pillars. This program is ASEAN's guideline for the short and medium term (2004-2010) which focuses on efforts to deepen regional integration and narrow gaps within ASEAN (CPF. Luhulima, et. Al. 2008). At the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, Philippines on 12-13 January 2007 a very important decision was reached, namely an agreement to reach an ASEAN Community in 2015.

ASEAN leaders agreed to have a commitment to create a One Caring and Sharing Community in 2015. 2015, five years earlier than what was announced in Kuala Lumpur in 1997 and carried out socialization so that the ASEAN people would have a we feeling. The Cebu Declaration affirms a sense of belonging as follows: "Encouraging the development of an ASEAN identity in order to support an ASEAN Community by carrying out various initiatives and activities aimed at increasing awareness of ASEAN and a sense of belonging "among the peoples of ASEAN". The ASEAN Community will be characterized by the achievement of cooperation, solidarity, together fighting poverty, and enjoying a sense of amusement, including human security (Kuah, A. W. (2004).

Unlike the European Union, ASEAN does not have a historical unity that draws closer to one another unless most, apart from Thailand, were colonized by Europeans (D.G.E. Hall, 1981). Culturally, ASEAN is divided and has no close ties to each other, except for the influence of Malay-Islamic civilization in the South, India-Buddhism in the Middle, and Confucianism in the North and parts of the Central and South regions. One thing that could possibly become a historical bond is that the nations of this region have had trade contacts, cultural exchanges and political contacts between them, and with the countries of South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Northeast Asia, long before the nation Europe entered and colonized the Southeast Asian region. At the end of 2019, China reported that a case of an outbreak of a new disease called the corona virus or later known as Covid-19 had been found in Wuhan.

The epidemic of this disease continues to spread rapidly throughout the world, so that on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the disease as a global pandemic. The infection rate for Covid-19 is becoming increasingly alarming as the number of deaths increases over time. All countries in the world are trying to do all they can to deal with this pandemic in order to break the chain of spreading the virus and reduce the number of people exposed to it and the death toll. When this pandemic occurs, we can see that developed countries, such as the United States and Britain, seem overwhelmed to contain the spread of the virus and are unable to reduce the death toll. Thus, the progress and wealth of a country does not guarantee success in overcoming the Covid-19 attack (Caballero-Anthony, M. (2010).

The Covid-19 pandemic also shows that no country can handle a pandemic alone. International cooperation is urgently needed for any country to fight this deadly virus. Countries in the Southeast Asian region also did not escape the Covid-19 virus attacks. The disease outbreak has become one of the significant non-traditional security threats in the Southeast Asian region. Countries in the Southeast Asian region immediately responded to the Covid-19 by deciding the attitude and domestic policies of each country. The policies taken by each country are different, some countries prefer lockdown policies such as those carried out by Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines. There are also other countries that prefer social distancing policies such as those carried out by Indonesia (Trihartono, A.2009).

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations as a regional institution in Southeast Asia is working together to fight Covid-19, which has yet to be resolved. All ASEAN member countries have expressed concern over the spread of the virus which has resulted in the economy of ASEAN member countries having fallen. To that end, ASEAN took action by proposing regional cooperation in an effort to overcome this Covid-19 pandemic. ASEAN leaders have made plans and discussed a number of policies that are part of ASEAN regional cooperation. There are a number of policies that have been agreed upon by all ASEAN members and it is hoped that these policies can help fellow members fight the Covid-19 virus. In this research, we will discuss how the implementation of ASEAN Economic Community During the Covid-19 Pandemic.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

Research is the main means of developing science, including technology. Research aims to reveal the truth systematically, methodologically, and consistently. Thus, research was conducted through analysis and construction of existing data (Soerjono Soekanto, and Sri Mamudji, 2006). Research is an effort to explore an object that is unclear, obscure, or even without explanation for it. A logical and systematic study of the principles that guide scientific research (methodology) is intended as a basic principle and not as a method (method or design for conducting research) (Maria SW. Sumardjono, 1989).

Searching for new things through research in order to find, develop, and test the truth (Soetandyo Wignjosoebroto, 2013) a knowledge (Muslan Abdurrahman, 2009). The search through this research must of course meet scientific principles in order to find answers to a matter, problem, situation, fact or phenomenon faced by humans. This truth search requires a scientific method in order to find the truth based on logical considerations (Maria SW. Sumardjono, 2014).

Legal research based on the notion of a legal system as stated by Lawrence M. Friedman consists of three elements, first, legal substance which consists of norms, rules, legal principles, doctrine, and statutory regulations. , legal structure is the process of forming and implementing law, consisting of law making, legal bureaucracy, law enforcement, and judicial institutions, including the program, and third, legal culture which is a form of public appreciation of the law. with regard to where, when, and how people obey and deviate from the law based on their values. Based on Friedman's view, legal research is a study of legal symptoms that is limited to research on norms, rules and principles as legal substances, law enforcement through the understanding of legal structures, and legal observations in their interactions in society as a legal culture. Normative legal research is research related to the substance of the law, and empirical research (sociology) is research related to the structure and culture of law (Mukti Fajar ND and Yulianto Achmad, 2010).

Empirical legal research uses primary data through an approach that emphasizes the aspect of observation, while normative legal research uses secondary data with the nature of research which is generally descriptive or descriptive-explorative in nature, with qualitative analysis, and the approach emphasizes abstraction. Legal research in order to explain or seek answers to something that exists in society by fulfilling certain scientific principles. Of course, legal research that is carried out must be able to provide benefits, both theoretically and practically. The benefits of research, both theoretically and practically, can only be obtained through a certain procedure or method. Procedures or methods in legal research are ways that are taken scientifically to obtain scientific truth.

According to Bernard Arief Sidharta, that normative legal research (legal dogmatic, rechtsdogmatiek), scientific activities include inventory, explanation, interpretation, and systematization including evaluation of the overall positive law (authoritative text) that applies in society or the state. Supported by concepts (meanings), categories, theories, classifications, and methods specially formed and developed to carry out this activity. All activities are directed at preparing efforts to find juridical solutions to micro and macro legal problems that occur in society (Irianto and Shidarta, 2011).

The author's legal research on Implementation of ASEAN Economic Community During the Covid-19 Pandemic is a type of normative and prospective legal research. This research can qualify as normative legal research, because it examines the rules or norms contained in the law regarding in ASEAN regarding Implementation of ASEAN Economic Community During the Covid-19 Pandemic, including related laws and regulations, and which are of relevance. with that. This research can also qualify as a prospective legal research, because this research is expected to provide conceptual input on ASEAN, especially Implementation of ASEAN Economic Community During the Covid-19 Pandemic.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **ASEAN Economic Community**

ASEAN economic cooperation began with the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration of 1967 which aimed to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development. In its development, ASEAN economic cooperation has led to the formation of an ASEAN Economic Community whose implementation is relatively faster than cooperation in the political-security and socio-cultural fields. The 9th ASEAN Summit in Bali in 2003 resulted in the Bali Concord II which emphasized that AEC was directed towards the formation of a regional economic integration. The formation of the AEC will create a stable, prosperous and highly competitive ASEAN region. AEC will create a freer flow of goods, services, investment and a freer flow of capital, equal economic development and reduce socio-economic disparities by 2020. AEC will make ASEAN a single market and production base, transforming the diversity that characterizes the region into business opportunities that complement each other and make ASEAN more dynamic and a stronger segment as part of the global supply chain. At the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, Philippines in January 2007, the ASEAN Leaders expressed their strong commitment to accelerate the formation of the ASEAN Community from 2020 to 2015 and agreed to accelerate the formation of the AEC to 2015, and make ASEAN a region marked by freedom. a freer flow of goods, services, investment, skilled workers and capital. The formation of AEC will also make ASEAN a highly competitive region with a level of economic development that is evenly distributed and integrated in the global economy (Sukma, R. (2008).

The establishment of the AEC will provide opportunities for ASEAN member countries to expand the scope of economies of scale, reduce poverty and socio-economic disparities, increase attractiveness as a destination for investors and tourists, reduce trade transaction costs, improve trade and business facilities, and increase sector competitiveness UKM. In addition, the formation of AEC will also facilitate and increase intra-ASEAN market access as well as increase transparency and accelerate adjustments to domestic regulations and standardization. On the other hand, the formation of AEC also poses challenges for the ten ASEAN member countries in the form of imperatives to: increase domestic public understanding of ASEAN, especially for businesses; increasing competitiveness through increasing efficiency in all aspects; creating good governance; able to determine the priorities of the sectors that will be liberalized as well as align the position of ASEAN member countries in various negotiations both bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally. Another challenge that will be faced by member countries is the necessity to be able to implement and assess the various FTA commitments that have been agreed upon, both bilateral, regional and multilateral. Whatever the final form of economic integration in the Southeast Asian region, ASEAN must continue the economic cooperation programs that have been initiated (Smith, A. L. (2004).

### **COVID-19 in ASEAN**

The year 2020 is a year when the whole world is faced with a situation that has never been experienced before, even tends to not be anticipated. Several months into this year, it is increasingly realized that this condition is not something that is temporary, which will end in a few months and after that all the joints of life in the whole world will return to normal. The pandemic caused by the spread of the Covid-19 virus is likely to be a world problem for some time to come. Various efforts have been made and most of them are still focused on overcoming the current impact and reducing the speed of spread, known as flattening the curve. Several countries have declared successes, but most are still struggling.

So that on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 a global pandemic, which refers to the spread of diseases that are considered to be able to infect person to person easily and quickly, and occur continuously, in various regions. Human mobility is one of the factors that has helped accelerate the spread of the Covid-19 virus. In China, until 23 January 2020 - before Wuhan declared its lockdown status - most of the reports regarding the initial cases of Covid-19 came from Hubei Province (81% of all cases at that time), while the majority of cases reported were outside the City. Wuhan generally has a travel history from that city. The time it takes for symptoms to appear and being identified as infected with Covid-19 provides the opportunity for the virus to transmit from one person to many other people in different locations.

As a result, this virus spread rapidly to various other countries. Therefore, the discussion about human mobility and this pandemic is interesting because on the one hand human mobility has become one of the main triggers of this pandemic. Meanwhile, on the other hand, after the virus has spread very widely, the immediate impact that can be seen is firstly the trend of reversed mobility, where there is a reverse flow of temporary migrants to their areas of origin and second, mobility limitation in the form of restriction or cessation of mobility. then it has an impact on other fields such as transportation, tourism, and of course the economy as a whole.

In other words, if human mobility initially triggers a pandemic, the circle of influence that immediately causes the pandemic will eventually change the pattern of human mobility itself.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 or known as Covid-19 is an infectious disease that causes serious lung disease. The first Covid-19 case was discovered in China in November 2019. Covid-19 is known to be an infectious disease caused by a new virus with a very fast spreading rate. As reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases worldwide is 3,116,398 cases with 217,153 deaths (29 April 2020). Indonesia is the country with the highest number of deaths due to Covid-19 among other ASEAN countries, followed by the Philippines and Malaysia. Indonesia is one of the countries with a high number of COVID-19 cases. The spread that occurs in Indonesia comes from travelers from countries or regions affected by COVID-19 as well as local transmission. Data released by covid19.go.id shows the number of positive cases of COVID-19 until June 21, 2020, recorded 45,891 positive people. A total of 18,404 people recovered and 2,465 people died.

The Indonesian government since the beginning of 2020 has been working to issue policies to be implemented by the public to prevent the spread of COVID-19 cases. The threat arising from this pandemic does not only affect health but also social, economic and welfare aspects of the Indonesian people. The presence of the Covid-19 pandemic has limited human mobility in the Southeast Asian region. Moreover, with the increasing number of Covid-19 sufferers in the region, it is predicted that the Southeast Asia region could become the next Covid-19 hotspot. As a precautionary measure, various policies have been implemented, including policies to limit interactions, restrictions on movement, and cease operations of land, sea and air transportation modes.

The following is a further explanation of the efforts to deal with Covid19 in Southeast Asia, by taking examples from the four ASEAN countries with the most recent Covid19 cases. There are several policies issued by the Indonesian government, ranging from closing borders and prohibiting entry, large-scale social restrictions (PSBB), to prohibiting homecoming. The PSBB implemented by Indonesia includes calls for learning, working and worship activities carried out from home, restrictions on activities in public places or facilities, restrictions on socio-cultural activities, and restrictions to the termination of transportation modes. The implementation of this policy can reduce the spread of Covid-19 if it is carried out properly. However, not (or not yet) there are strict sanctions for those who violate the community to disobey the existing regulations. As a result, the existing policies are seen as less effective. Not much different from Indonesia, the Malaysian Government also implements border control, as well as a social restriction policy called movement control order (MCO).

The implementation of policies in Malaysia can be said to be more effective than Indonesia because of the sanctions in the form of fines for those who violate them. However, the policy making tends to prioritize the interests of Malaysians and ignore the interests of migrant workers and refugees who come to Malaysia. Policy issues towards migrant workers are crucial when talking about Malaysia because until now Malaysia is still one of the main destination countries for migrant workers in Southeast Asia, both documented and undocumented. In this regard, on 22 April 2020, the Immigration Department suspended all lawlessness operations during the MCO period<sup>15</sup> although there are still other issues that need to be addressed regarding migrant workers.

The implementation of the MCO policy puts migrant workers in Malaysia at risk, both by economic threats due to termination of employment (especially for daily workers who cannot work due to MCO), and health threats due to limited access to testing and health facilities. Not only migrant workers, Malaysia is also one of the destination countries for Rohingya refugees. Fear of the spread of Covid-19 prompted the Malaysian government to intercept a ship estimated to contain 200 Rohingya refugees from entering Malaysian waters. The Malaysian government's decision has been criticized by Human Rights International and Amnesty International.

Singapore has also closed borders for short-term visitors, as well as social restrictions called circuit breakers until June 1, 2020. The term circuit breaker refers to an appeal to stay at home to break the chain of transmission of Covid-19 in the community, which includes an appeal to stay at home, homes, online teaching and learning activities, controlled access in areas that are prone to crowds such as markets, the closure of most workplaces, and the application of additional safety measures in operational workplaces.

Just like Malaysia, the Singapore government has also imposed fines for violators so that the implementation of the policy has become more effective. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy and food is devastating. Food is the most basic human need. Therefore, the fulfillment of food is part of individual human rights. Fulfillment of food is also very important as a basic component in realizing quality human resources. Along with the increasing population and disruption of the community life system, the problem of food availability for the community is increasingly becoming a big problem. This is of course a serious threat to the problem of food security when people are exposed to disease outbreaks such as Covid-19.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Implementation of ASEAN Economic Community During the Covid-19 Pandemic**

The Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19) is an important milestone, modality, and potential for regional efforts. It envisages the commitment of states to tackle the issues together without endangering the interest of others. In this time of crisis, it is understandable that every state has the interests to secure its people from dying and to keep the national economy from rolling down. This is why regional cooperation and coordination are vital. The Beggar-thy-neighbor policy is the last thing we want to see in this situation, as history told us, especially in the case of the Great Depression in the 1930s and its aftermath, that this kind of policy would create more problems than saving us from it. Thus, the realization of the commitments in the declaration is very important (Sukma, R. (2012).

Theoretically speaking, the fear of being cheated, that is, the condition when we cooperate and other states do not, is one of the factors that could inhibit international cooperation. In this regard, Robert Jervis already explained that several factors make international cooperation becomes more likely. First, the chance of cooperation will be increased if there is something that increases the incentives to cooperate or there is something that decreases the cost of being exploited by others. Second, there is something that decreases the incentives to exploit each other or there is something that makes no cooperation with each other is costly. Third, there is something that increases the expectations of countries that their counterparts are willing to cooperate.

Those factors fit with the condition in ASEAN and could reflect the potential of the organization to address the issue in a cooperative and coordinative way. The first factor, the incentive to cooperate, is clear. Effective cooperation in securing the availability of medical equipment, for example, would certainly benefit all member states. The eradication of the virus from the regional population is, after all, the most desirable. In regards to the second factor, under the outbreak condition, it is not wise for ASEAN member states to exploit each other. Pragmatically, they need the medical equipment and regional fund to help their domestic efforts. While it is understandable if one state desires to secure its people first, exploiting each other or not cooperating is not the solution they should seek as resources are limited and there are actors nearby that could cooperate with. Lastly, the third factor is related closely to the declaration to combat the virus together. At the very least, the declaration gives a positive sign for all member states that they are willing to cooperate. Thus, the condition of the outbreak itself creates suitable incentives for ASEAN member states to cooperate. Their goodwill, then, is a potential for the coordinative and cooperative action to be conducted to effectively tackle the outbreak regionally (Jones, D. M., & Smith, M. L. (2007).

While the cooperation itself is indeed important, ASEAN members should focus on regional efforts. This is related to Kenneth Oye's explanation of cooperation. The more the number of actors in cooperation, the more risks that the state will face in cooperation such as the freeriding problem. The smaller the number of actors involved in cooperation would generally increase the likelihood of cooperation. In this case, ASEAN members should prioritize their regional efforts since it is more viable in the need for collaborative action to tackle the domestic yet transnational problems of the COVID-19 outbreak. The number of ASEAN members that is smaller than the global community as general would increase the chance of regional cooperation to work efficiently.

This is not to say that ASEAN members should abandon global efforts altogether. The global efforts and frameworks, such as the cooperation and the share of information from WHO is indeed crucial and could be used to implement regional policy even further. Nevertheless, there are some initiatives already mentioned by the members such as the setting up of regional funding and the commitment to open the flow of goods, especially strategic goods for combating COVID-19, within the region. These commitments are more viable to be realized by the ASEAN member states regionally since the cooperation is more likely in smaller numbers. ASEAN, as a regional organization, provides the arena and becomes the instrument for a smaller number of actors that could increase the chance of cooperation. The existence of ASEAN as a regional organization itself, then, could be seen as a potential for the likelihood of regional efforts.

ASEAN already has the potential for its members to cooperate and combat the COVID-19 together. The potentials here can be defined as the modality of ASEAN to encourage the realization of states' cooperation to tackle the regional challenge. The first potential would be the goodwill of ASEAN members, reflected in the Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The commitments in this declaration could be a basis for mitigating the beggar-thy-neighbor policy in the time of crisis where the member states agree to refrain any unnecessary restriction on the flow of goods such as medical equipment. Further, they are also willing to create the ASEAN COVID-19 Response Fund for the sake of facilitating regional cooperation against the virus. These commitments could increase the incentive to cooperate, discourage free-riding or defective behavior, and increase the positive expectation that all the member states are willing to cooperate. Furthermore, ASEAN, as a regional organization, has the role of the arena and instrument for its relatively limited members than the global community as a whole. This condition could increase the efficiency, coordination, and the likelihood of the regional effort itself. ASEAN also has the experiences of cooperation with China, Japan, and South Korea in nontraditional security sectors. These experiences and relations with the three partners could be a significant factor and modality for the regional effort for combating COVID-19 since the recent meeting of ASEAN also included the APT format.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is directly related to the ASEAN economy. China has been the main destination for ASEAN exports since 2011. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency, last year the non-oil and gas export value of ASEAN member countries to China reached US \$ 25.7 billion. This value is far greater than the value of non-oil and gas exports of ASEAN member countries to the United States and to Japan, which are ranked second and third respectively. China is also the main country of origin for imports of ASEAN member countries. In 2019, the import value of ASEAN member countries from China reached 44.5 billion US dollars, or the equivalent of three and five and a half times the import value of ASEAN member countries from Japan and the United States. Moreover, China is one of the largest countries of origin for foreign investment in Indonesia and a contributor to more than two million foreign tourists or around 12.5 percent of the total foreign tourists who come to ASEAN member countries.

Second, the inherent impacts of other Covid-19 pandemic countries are directly related to the economies of ASEAN member countries. For example, the default impact from the European Union, United States, South Korea and Australia. Although not as big as the default impact from China, the default impact from these countries cannot be ignored. Both in terms of export and import traffic, foreign investment and tourist visits. Third, the side effects of the global economy as a whole. The spread of Covid-19 to 176 countries has added to global economic uncertainty after the previous trade war between the United States and China, Britain's exit from the European Union (British exit) and international geopolitical shifts. This uncertainty increases the pressure on the Indonesian economy. Fourth, the local impact of the spread of Covid-19 in Indonesia.

This impact was initially underestimated. However, looking at the developments that have occurred in the last few days, with the many cases of Covid-19 infection in ASEAN member countries, it seems that the local impact of the spread of Covid-19 will actually be much bigger. Not surprisingly, a number of organizations have again lowered the economic growth projection of ASEAN member countries in 2020. For example, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) a few weeks ago (2/3/2020) lowered the economic growth projection of ASEAN member countries. them from 5.0 to 4.8 percent. Meanwhile, Moody's a few days later (6/3/2020) lowered its projection for Indonesia's economic growth from 4.9 to 4.8 percent. The World Bank two days ago (19/3/2020) even lowered their version of the economic growth projection of ASEAN member countries from the previous 5.0-5.4 percent to 4.2-4.6 percent. In contrast to the 2008 global financial crisis, Islamic banking as the main face of the sharia economy has been quite successful in rising from the monetary crisis, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has attacked the public health system. It is certain that the implications are multi-dimensional, including the economy in ASEAN member countries

## CONCLUSION

The Covid-19 pandemic has become a significant non-traditional threat in various parts of the world, including the Southeast Asia Region. ASEAN as the largest regional institution in the region has agreed to work together to handle Covid-19 by taking a number of policies for all ASEAN members. However, in this cooperation there are a number of challenges, such as the lack of information regarding the handling of Covid-19 received by ASEAN members, the slow response of ASEAN in dealing with Covid-19, differences in policies taken by each member country, and the lack of transparency of response funds established by ASEAN. In addition, the lack of efforts to deal with the economic impacts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the difficulty of collaboration between institutions are also challenges for ASEAN regional cooperation in efforts to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. If all these obstacles to regional cooperation can be overcome together, ASEAN will become a regional institution with the potential to succeed in overcoming the COVID-19 virus through regional efforts. Although the potential exists, if the policies taken are not effective and efficient, the results will not be optimal. Therefore, every ASEAN member must remain enthusiastic about working together and helping each other, so that various joint efforts of member countries to combat the COVID-19 outbreak can be successful and maximally successful.

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